

and, in the case of GEAR UP, to serve students from seventh grade through high school graduation.

It will improve the operation of our student loan programs by making minor adjustments to streamline some loan forbearances and to conform the law to reflect current practices for perfecting security interests. This bill will also improve the Perkins Loan program by allowing borrowers to rehabilitate loans by making a single lump sum payment and by clarifying that loans in deferment for a student that performs service resulting in their cancellation are reimbursed for interest as well.

Additionally, this legislation will improve the regulatory process for schools and other program participants. This is important, because we continue to hear reports that the Department does not give the public enough time to comment on or to implement complex student aid regulations. First, the bill will require the Department of Education to allow a minimum of 45 days for comment after the publication of a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM). Second, it prevents disclosure or reporting requirements from becoming effective for at least 180 days after the publication of final regulations.

Finally, the bill we are introducing will clarify and strengthen provisions in the Higher Education Act regarding the return of federal funds when students withdraw from school. Specifically, it will correct a Department interpretation so that students will never be required to return more than 50 percent of the grant funds they received. In addition, the bill will provide students with a limited grace period for repayment to help students who are unable to repay immediately upon their withdrawal, and it will set a minimum threshold for grant repayment of \$50. All of these steps will aid students who postpone or withdraw for emergency or financial reasons.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation we are introducing is bipartisan. It has no cost, and it will improve the implementation of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 which we worked so hard to enact in the last Congress. I urge every member of this body to support its passage.

#### TRIBUTE TO SUSAN AND JOSEPH PICHLER

#### HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2000*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to Joseph and Susan Pichler, good friends and recipients of the Distinguished Service Citation from the National Conference for Community Justice (NCCJ) on May 25. They were selected for this award for their personal and professional qualities that have furthered the cause of inter-group understanding in our community.

Susan attended St. Mary's College, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in English. A dedicated volunteer for many years, she has done a great deal to improve inner-city education. She is a strong supporter of the Junior Great Books reading enrichment program, and

locally, she initiated this program at Washington Park School and St. Francis Seraph School. While in Kansas, she worked with Junior Great Books at St. John the Evangelist Grade School; taught CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) at Our Lady of Guadalupe; initiated Junior Great Books at Avenue A School; chaired the Hutchinson High School Evaluation Committee for the School Board; and served on the Parent Teacher Association.

Currently, Susan is active with the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, serving as a member of the National Advisory Board and the Board of Trustees. She also serves on the Board of Trustees for St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana, and has spent 10 years as a volunteer librarian at St. Francis Seraph School.

Joe is Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer at the Kroger Company, one of America's largest companies, and a company that gives much to our community. He graduated magna cum laude from Notre Dame University, and went on to obtain his M.B.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

From 1968–1970, Joe served in the U.S. Department of Labor. He also taught at the University of Kansas School of Business for 15 years, and served as Dean from 1974–1980.

Joe has been involved in a number of civic and charitable activities. He is a former member of the Board of Advisors with the Salvation Army School for Officers Training. He is an Honorary Lifetime Member of the University of Kansas School of Fine Arts; a member of the Catholic Commission on Intellectual and Cultural Affairs; and a member of the Board of Trustees of Tougaloo College in Mississippi.

Locally, Joe is Co-Chairman of the Greater Cincinnati Scholarship Association; a member of the Xavier University Board of Trustees; an Advisory Member of the Cincinnati Opera; and a member of the Advisory Board of the Cincinnati Chapter of the Salvation Army.

Joe also is active as a member of the Board of Directors of Federated Department Stores, Inc., and Milacron, Inc. He is a member of the Board at Catalyst; a member of the Business Council; past Chairman of the National Alliance of Business; and a member of the Cincinnati Business Committee.

All of us in the Cincinnati area are grateful to Susan and Joe for their numerous contributions to our community, and congratulate them on receiving this prestigious NCCJ award.

#### A.O. REED & COMPANY: SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AWARD

#### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2000*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, today I recognize A.O. Reed & Company, as it is honored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, at its 12th annual Worker's Memorial Dinner with its Spirit of Cooperation Award.

A.O. Reed, founded in 1914, is one of the largest and most respected locally owned con-

struction companies. The company has been in continuous business in San Diego for over eighty years, and it is responsible for some of the largest, most complex projects in the San Diego area, including the East Terminal at Lindbergh Field, Hyatt Regency San Diego, San Diego Marriott Hotel, Kaiser Hospital, Salk Cancer Research Facility, Scripps Institute of Oceanography and Marine Biology, California State Prison, Idec Pharmaceutical, and Callaway Golf Ball Facility. With this Labor Council Spirit of Cooperation award, we honor their long-standing support for the trade union movement.

A.O. Reed employees are compensated with wages and benefits that lead the industry. Their employees receive the best training available through state-approved apprenticeship and journeyman training programs. A.O. Reed management has demonstrated an admirable commitment to the collective bargaining process.

A.O. Reed is also a consistent leader in charitable giving. They donate labor and materials to those in the San Diego community who are in need of plumbing and mechanical services.

This award recognizes their contribution to San Diego and honors their partnership with Plumbers and Pipefitter Local 230 and Sheetmetal Workers Local 206. My congratulations go to A.O. Reed & Company for these significant contributions.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION TECHNICAL AMEND- MENTS OF 2000

#### HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2000*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Higher Education Technical Amendments of 2000. On May 8, 1998, the House passed the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 on a bipartisan basis. That legislation was subsequently enacted on October 7, 1998, and greatly benefited students by providing the lowest student loan interest rates in almost 20 years, as well as by making needed improvements to important student aid programs like Work-Study, Pell Grants, and TRIO.

At that time I congratulated the Subcommittee Chairman, Mr. McKEON, the Ranking Member, Mr. CLAY, and the former Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Mr. KILDEE, for a job well done. The past year and a half has shown that praise was well placed. Millions of students have since benefited from their efforts, and the minimal number of technical amendments that are needed is testimony to the fact that the bill was well crafted.

Since that time, the Department of Education has concluded its first round of negotiated rule making, and issued final regulations to reflect the changes. We have had a chance to analyze the implementation of the law with respect to congressional intent. In most cases our intent was adhered to, but in a few important instances it was not.

The legislation we are introducing today makes necessary technical changes as well

as a few policy changes that we believe are necessary to implement the Act as intended. There are also a number of policy changes that were recommended to us that have not been included in this bill, and I expect that some will be disappointed at their exclusion. However, in crafting this legislation, we have worked to ensure that the bill is bipartisan, that it is fully paid for, that it will benefit students, and that it will be signed into law.

For example, I feel very strongly that the Department is not following our intent with respect to direct loan origination fees. Now, before this is taken out of context, let me be clear; I support better terms and conditions for students. The 1998 amendments were designed to provide students with the best possible deal under very tight budget constraints, and I believe we succeeded in doing that. However, the law is very clear in directing the Secretary to collect a four percent origination fee on direct student loans.

This is confirmed in legal opinions from the Congressional Research Service and the Comptroller General. It was not our intent to change that, and in my view the Department's action sets a very dangerous precedent. The fact that this legislation does not address this issue should not be taken as an endorsement of the Department's actions.

The legislation we are introducing today does make a needed change to the "return of federal funds" provisions in the Higher Education Act to help students who withdraw before the end of a term. Specifically, it corrects the Department's interpretation and clarifies that students are never required to return more than 50 percent of the grant funds they received. Again, I know there are those who would like us to go further. However, doing so would have mandatory spending implications that we have no way to pay for, and in many instances would result in students leaving school with increased student loan debt.

This bill will also modify the campus crime reporting provisions of the Act to provide parents and students with information on schools' policies regarding the handling of reports on missing students. Specifically, information will be provided on a school's policy on parental notification as well as its policy for investigating such reports and cooperating with local police. I have a long history of trying to ensure that parents have the information they need to make sure that their children are safe on campus, and I have worked closely with my colleague, Mr. Andrews, to craft this version of "Bryan's Law" so that it gives parents this information without overly burdening schools.

Finally, I would also note that we have included the provisions of H.R. 3629, the Tribal College Amendments, which we marked up last month and which passed the House under suspension of the rules. These provisions will streamline grant applications for Tribal Colleges under Title III and allow institutions to apply for a new grant without waiting for two years. We have included them again here because we are uncertain whether the other body will act on H.R. 3629 in a timely manner. I also note that this bill contains similar treatment for Hispanic Serving Institutions under Title V, and I thank our colleague, MARK GREEN of Wisconsin, for bringing this issue to our attention.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

I also want to thank Mr. CLAY, Mr. McKEON, and Mr. MARTINEZ for their efforts in crafting this bipartisan legislation. This bill will not satisfy everyone completely. But it does make necessary technical and policy changes that will improve the implementation of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, and it does so in a way that will benefit students and that is likely to be enacted. I urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support this legislation.

### COMMENDING MASTER CHIEF ANDE HARTLEY

#### HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, today I commend Master Chief Ande Hartley of the United States Navy upon his retirement after twenty-one years of service and duty to our country. Ande carried out that duty as a submariner.

Being a member of a submarine crew for two decades is no small accomplishment. It is well known among members of our armed forces that submarine duty may be among the toughest and most challenging assignments in the Navy. After all, in most other assignments in the Navy, there is usually an opportunity to leave your station for a few hours and have time alone. When you are aboard a submarine there is no opportunity for retreat from one's responsibilities.

Ande's specific duties as a Machinist Mate aboard a nuclear submarine were to make sure that the mechanical systems of the submarine ran properly. All though I am not aware of all those responsibilities, I want to be sure and mention the importance of running the propulsion plant spacers and ensuring that all mechanics associated with the reactor plant were in proper working order. If a qualified member of the crew had not carried out these duties correctly, then this ship would be unable to perform its covert operations for the Navy that are so vital to the freedom of this nation.

Without reservation Mr. Speaker, I can say that Master Chief Ande Hartley has performed his duties well. I am sure there were days he realized he could pursue other employment opportunities and earn better pay, and benefits as well as enjoy more time with his family and friends. For Ande though, true commitment is more than pay and benefits, it is about the preservation of the freedom we enjoy so that our family and friends will have the opportunities they now have in the future.

Ande's sacrifices are without doubt noteworthy and commendable. His commitment is an example that his family, friends and fellow sailors can follow as a pattern in their own lives. Thank you Ande for serving your country so faithfully, for so many years. It is an example we can all follow.

### CONCERN FOR 13 MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY WHO ARE ON TRIAL

#### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues the deep concern that I have for 13 members of the Jewish community in Iran who are on trial for a crime I do not believe they have committed. Iran's arbitrary charges against these thirteen individuals endangers that country's entire Jewish community and is an offense to world Jewry. The trial takes place at the same time when the world honors those who were lost to the Holocaust and vows never to let such atrocities of hate recur.

I am encouraged by the fact that so many of my colleagues have taken a role of moral leadership on this issue, and have expressed their outrage to the Administration and to Iranian authorities. This past week, members of Congress took further steps to emphasize how seriously this trial can affect Iran's status. We wrote to the World Bank and contacted nations on the bank's loan approval board to urge postponement of pending loans for development projects in Iran. Unfortunately, those loans were approved. I am grateful that representatives of numerous nations that were present expressed concern over the trial. The outcome of this trial will not be overlooked by members of Congress or the Jewish and human rights communities.

The future for these thirteen individuals does not look promising. No matter what the outcome of this trial is, I will never forget Iran's behavior and will take this matter into account as I make foreign policy decisions that affect that country. I commend to my colleagues an article written by Douglas Bloomfield for the Chicago Jewish Star. Mr. Bloomfield's column is usually full of great information and insight, this one is particularly compelling and is worthy of members' attention.

SHOA TRIAL

(By Douglas M. Bloomfield)

There was something deeply troubling and yet fitting that as Jews around the world last week remembered the Six Million who perished in the Holocaust, the Ayatollahs began the trial of 13 Jews accused of spying for Israel. It was a dramatic reminder that Jews remain endangered in some parts of the world.

The time and place were appropriate. Iran is where a long-ago Hitler once concocted genocidal plans for the Jews of the Persian Empire. Just a few weeks ago, Haman's modern descendants declared the ancient vizier was really an Egyptian, not unlike the Austrians trying to convince the world Hitler was really a German.

The trial of 13 men accused on trumped up espionage charges opened on a dramatic note with the televised confessions, outside the courtroom, of first, one man and then two more and other followed, all dutifully denying coercion.

It was an alarming development unabashedly offered by a regime that wanted the world to see the confessions but not the trial.